

SHOULD CHRISTIANS SUPPORT THE NEW HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT?

Matt Vega, J.D.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article was written by A.P. staff writer Matt Vega, who received his doctorate from Yale University Law School.]

On October 28, 2009, President Obama signed the *Matthew Shepard & James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act*. Senator Harry Reid quietly slipped the bill into the defense authorization bill to avoid any debate in the Senate on the merits of the bill. It was named after Matthew Shepard, a Wyoming student practicing homosexuality who was beaten to death in 1998, and James Byrd, Jr., a black man dragged to death in Texas the same year.

As Christians, we should be sickened by the knowledge that people are so full of deeply seated hatred that these sorts of crimes still happen today. It is impossible to use Christianity to justify bombing abortion clinics or attacking two men on the street holding hands. As the apostle Paul reminded the church in Galatia: "For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'" (Galatians 5:14; cf. John 13:34). The New Testament does not condone such improperly motivated acts of violence—even in opposition to sexual sins. For example, Jesus saved a woman caught in adultery from stoning by pointing out the improper conduct of her accusers (John 8:1-11). Jesus did not excuse the woman's actions, but instead called her iniquity "sin." He told her to "go, and sin no more" (vs. 11). On the other hand, Jesus did not condone the crowd's ac-

tions either. There is no evidence the people had followed the procedural safeguards under ecclesiastical law, or that the woman's accusers had satisfied the strict burden of proof required for capital crimes. By all accounts, this was just an unruly mob. The mob was likely just using this woman to trap Jesus, or they may have been guilty of the very same sin of adultery (Miller, 2004, 24[11]:97-103). Alternatively, the entire mob may have been guilty of unfairly singling the woman out when the old law plainly required that both the man and the woman be executed (Deuteronomy 22:22).

Therefore, Jesus rebuked the crowd with these words: "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first" (John 8:7). The illicit nature of their conduct is perhaps best evidenced by the fact that the guilt-ridden mob dispersed one by one in response to Jesus' words (vs. 9). In the end, since there were no accusers, the woman could not be condemned. Under Mosaic Law, a person could not be sentenced to death unless his or her offense was confirmed by the testimony of at least two witnesses (Deuteronomy 19:15). Thus, Jesus uttered those famous words, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?" When she confirmed no one was left, Jesus told her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more" (vs. 11).

Despite the foregoing, whether Christians should engage in hate crimes is very different from the question of whether Christians should support the new hate crimes law. Christians

must prayerfully exercise discernment (Hebrews 5:14; Philippians 1:9-10) to determine how God wants us to respond to this new statute. The answer depends first on whether the law is valid, and second on whether it is moral. However, some laws that appear on their face to be both valid and moral, are not necessarily morally neutral when applied. This raises a third question of whether the new hate crimes law is potentially an anti-Christian law. To the extent the law is not morally neutral, we must make sure the law does not compel us to disobey God. Each of these important questions is discussed in the context

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of the new hate crimes law more fully below.

Is the New Hate Crimes Law Legal?

The 1969 *Federal Hate Crimes Law* permits the federal prosecution of anyone who “willingly injures, intimidates or interferes with another person, or attempts to do so, by force because of the other person’s race, color, religion or national origin” (“Title 18...”). Similarly, the 1994 Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act required the U.S. Sentencing Commission to increase the penalties for hate crimes committed because of these protected characteristics of the victim as well as his or her ethnicity or sex (*Violent Crime...*).

The new *Hate Crimes Prevention Act* (HCPA) expands the definition of federal hate crimes to specifically include those committed based on the victim’s sexual orientation, gender identity (e.g., transsexualism), or disability. It also makes it a federal crime to attack U.S. military personnel because of their service. The Act does away with an earlier provision that limited the law to cases in which the victim was attempting to engage in one of six types of federally protected activities. Finally, the new law allows the U.S. Department of Justice to assist in the prosecution of these particular hate crimes.

In 1992, the Supreme Court held in *R.A.V. v. City of St. Paul* that some hate crimes laws violate the First Amendment

right to free speech. The Court concluded that statutes which criminalize bias-motivated speech or symbolic speech violate the First Amendment; therefore, most cross-burning statutes or statutes criminalizing verbal intimidation have been deemed unconstitutional. However, in *Wisconsin v. Mitchell* the Supreme Court upheld a Wisconsin statute which provides for an enhanced sentence where the defendant “intentionally selects the person against whom the crime [is committed] because of the race, religion, color, disability, sexual orientation, national origin or ancestry of that person” (1993). The HCPA most likely falls within this second permitted category of hate crime law.

Nevertheless, critics of the HCPA claim it creates a double standard. They argue traditional laws already make it illegal to assault someone, and already take general malice into account. Therefore, there is no need to impose still further penalties on acts of violence motivated by enmity or animus against certain protected classes. Moreover, the Fourteenth Amendment to the *U.S. Constitution* guarantees that no class of individuals should be treated any differently under the law. Therefore, opponents argue the new law fails to provide equal protection of the law. However, the Supreme Court has yet to so hold.

Opponents of the HCPA also argue that the federal law circumvents constitutional safeguards against federalism

and double jeopardy. Only 31 states currently include bias against a person because of his or her sexual orientation within their state law definition of a hate crime. Critics argue the federal government should leave this determination up to the states. They argue the bill would allow people who have been found innocent of a hate crime in state court to be re-prosecuted in federal court. They also see the federal law as a way for the U.S. Justice Department to prosecute people whom state prosecutors refuse to prosecute because of a lack of evidence. Until it is ruled unconstitutional, however, Christians should operate under the assumption that the HCPA is still good law.

Is the New Hate Crimes Law Moral?

The new crimes law does not require anyone to do anything immoral. On the contrary, the HCPA is intended to discourage acts of hatred. As Christians we should obey the laws of the land even if we disagree with them (Romans 13:1-2)—unless doing so would require us to disobey God (Acts 5:27-29). The notion that the penalty for a crime ought to be increased based on the perpetrator’s motivation is not a new idea. In fact, it is a very old, even biblical idea. In the Old Testament, the penalty for killing a human being was greater when it was done out “of hatred” (Numbers 35:20). Thus, there is no moral impetus for violating the HCPA.

However, this does not mean the HCPA is necessarily moral. One potential problem with the new hate crimes law is that it elevates certain sexual sins to the status of a federally protected characteristic. The only characteristics previously protected by any federal law included a person’s race, color, age, sex, national origin, disability, religion, veteran status, or marital status. The HCPA, however, would extend protection to homosexuality and transsexualism and enshrine them as moral equivalents to race, religion, and the other protected categories. This expansion is legally and morally difficult to justify. First, there is no credible evidence that homosexuality is an immutable characteristic like race, color, age, sex, and national origin. The American Psychological Association has stated: “Although much research has examined the possible genetic, hormonal, developmental, so-

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cial, and cultural influences on sexual orientation, no findings have emerged that permit scientists to conclude that sexual orientation is determined by any particular factor or factors" (*Answers to...*, 2008, p. 2). In addition, the HCPA's definition of "sexual orientation" is not limited to immutable characteristics because it includes the status of being, or **the perception of being** heterosexual, homosexual, or bisexual.

Further, those that engage in deviant sexual behavior generally refuse to equate it with a physical or mental disability. In 1973, the Board of Trustees of the American Psychiatric Association (APA) removed homosexuality from the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (DSM) after reviewing evidence that it was not a mental disorder (*Psychiatric Treatment and...*, 1998). In 1987, ego-dystonic homosexuality was not included in the revised third edition of DSM (DSM-II-R) after a similar review (*Psychiatric Treatment and...*).

There is also no comparison between the practice of homosexuality and the practice of religion in terms of their respective contributions to law and society. Finally, transsexuals and homosexuals do not merit the same status given to veterans, or to marriage between a man and a woman. The military is necessary to the defense of our country. Marriage is a procreative partnership and the foundation of the family. While the military and marriage both fulfill essential roles in our society, homosexuals and transvestites are merely fulfilling their own selfish, unnatural lusts of the flesh. As J. Budziszewski put it, "Sodomy **cannot** ground families; it is sterile in every sense of the term" (2003, p. 205, emp. added).

Is the New Hate Crimes Law Anti-Christian?

The new law is intended only to apply to violent acts based on bias. For example, it does not make it illegal to preach against homosexuality. The U.S. law does not go as far as laws in the EU and Canada that censor speech deemed mean-spirited or bigoted by societal standards. If, however, the speaker later commits a violent crime, then the HCPA may allow evidence of the accused's statements to be taken into consideration in determining the appropriate sentence.

The HCPA is also not supposed to allow a person to be prosecuted on the basis of his or her beliefs. If, however, a person commits a violent crime against a homosexual, the fact that he or she is an active member of a group (or church) that publicly opposes homosexuality may be used against him or her in a court of law. Section 7 of the law merely states that the wrongful act must be **"because of the actual or perceived religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability of any person"** (emp. added). Thus, the accused's beliefs, even sincerely held religious beliefs, could theoretically be used to justify a more severe punishment if the accused is found guilty.

Whether intentional on the part of Congress or not, the HCPA may have a chilling effect on what is preached in the pulpit. However, gospel preachers should boldly continue to proclaim what God has said about all forms of sexual sin. As long as we do not live hypocritical lives, and do evil ourselves, we have nothing to fear from this law (Romans 13:3-4). That said, this law will likely have long-term cultural implications, gradually eroding the religious freedom to oppose homosexuality and other sins on moral and religious grounds.

CONCLUSION

Many sins other than homosexuality led to the passage of the HCPA. The *Act* is a direct consequence of all the sins that have given rise to hate crimes, including anger, malice, hostility, quarreling, and hypocrisy. The new law was apparently deemed necessary by our government because of a few misguided individuals engaged in drunkenness and other foolish behavior. Some of them even distorted Christian teachings against homosexuality into a license, not only to commit the most savage sins imaginable, but to ignore the New Testament command to "be at peace with all men" to the extent possible (Romans 12:18; Hebrews 12:14). Therefore, elders and preachers need to make sure that these sins are equally condemned from the pulpit alongside homosexuality.

Unfortunately, hate crimes will continue to be used to fuel the growing culture of moral relativism in this country. It is getting harder and harder to find an example of conduct that society agrees is always wrong. In addition to

tolerating homosexuality, our society no longer condemns the adulteress, philanderer, or even the pedophile in all cases. As G.K. Chesterton remarked: "The modern world is insane, not so much because it admits the abnormal, as because it cannot recover the normal" (1922, p. 25). Although popular opinion does not make wicked conduct right, it can make it legal. Yet, God's opinion on these matters has not changed, and faithful Christians must take His message, in a peaceful manner, to the public square. The New Testament message in this regard is two-fold. First, all forms of sexual immorality, including homosexuality, are sin (Romans 1:26; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 5:3-5; 1 Timothy 1:9-10; Jude 7). Second, any sin, even homosexuality, can be forgiven—if the individual is willing to obey the Gospel (believe, repent, confess, be baptized—Acts 2:38; Romans 10:9; 1 John 1:9).

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Year of the Frog

Jeff Miller, M.S.

[**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following article was written by A.P. auxiliary staff scientist Jeff Miller who holds an M.S. in Mechanical Engineering, with an emphasis in thermal science, from the University of Texas at Arlington. He is currently in doctoral studies at Auburn University.]

I recently went to a zoo with my family. While in the amphibian building, we noticed a dated video that was playing on the television monitors located throughout the facility. The video spotlighted a campaign to “save the amphibians,” many species of which were reported to be going extinct. The goal was to raise 50 million dollars for the conservation effort. Amphibian conservationists all over the United States are running to the rescue for our little slimy, hopping friends, even having formally declared 2008, “Year of the Frog.” Several zoos have “jumped” on board this effort. The Nashville Zoo’s Web site says that

Earth is facing the largest mass extinction since the disappearance of the dinosaurs. After thriving for over 360 million years, 1/3 to 1/2 of the world’s approximately 6,000 known amphibian species could become extinct in our lifetime. In response to this epidemic, scientists and conservationists formed an Amphibian Conservation Action Plan (ACAP), including research, assessment and conservation in nature. For species that cannot be saved in nature, the plan is to rescue them before they are gone and protect them in captive facilities until the threats to the wild populations can be controlled. Nashville Zoo and other organizations supporting ACAP are participating in a global public awareness campaign, **Year of the Frog**. The goal of **Year of the Frog** is to raise awareness among media, educators, corporations, philanthropists, governments and the general public about the vulnerability of amphibians and the extinction crisis they face as well as generate much-needed funds to implement ACAP (“Year of the...,” 2010, emp. in orig.).

Amphibian Ark Communications says that their fundraising goal is to raise 50 to 60 million dollars to save several amphibian species (2010).

Now to the point: Imagine what could be done for the Lord’s cause if people contributed that money to Him instead of the frogs. How many souls could be reached if the conservationists declared 2008, “Year of the Human Soul” instead? Imagine how many missionaries could be sent out with one million dollars, much less 50 to 60 million. How many kingdom-advancing



books and tracts could be published? How many television/radio programs could be aired? Imagine what could be done with the man-hours that are being poured into this effort.

Are the amphibians, as well as all living creatures, important to God? Yes. God feeds the birds of the air (Matthew 6:26) and clothes the grass and flowers of the field (Matthew 6:28-30). However, are animals more important than human beings, or even equal to human beings? No. Jesus said in Matthew 6:26 that human beings are “much more valu-

able” than them. Humans were made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26), unlike the animals. This is why humans were given a position of superiority over the created order, to have “dominion” over the animals and “subdue” them (Genesis 1:26,28).

Is it true that God would have us to be good stewards of the blessings that He has given us, including the Earth and its contents? Certainly. The parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30) teaches this principle, and the Old Testament gives specific examples of how God expected the Israelites to be good stewards of the land and wildlife around them. For instance, Deuteronomy 25:4 indicates that oxen were not to be muzzled while stamping out the grain from the chaff (Barnes, 1997), that they might enjoy the fruits of their labor (1 Timothy 5:18). Exodus 23:12 indicates that one of the reasons for the weekly Sabbath day was to give the animals a day of rest. Leviticus 25:1-7 and Exodus 23:10-11 indicate that every seventh year the land was not to be sown or reaped for food, but was to be given a year to recuperate and to provide food for, among others, the animals of the land. So, God expected the Israelites to consider the well-being of the animals, trees, and fields of the land. We are to be good stewards of what God has given us. We should not waste or be destructive with what God has given us. However, note one of the primary rationales for why we should be good stewards of the land. Deuteronomy 20:19 discusses the protocol that the Israelites were to follow in besieging the cities that they would be coming up against in their conquest of Canaan: “When you besiege a city for a long time, while making war against it to take it, you shall not destroy its trees by wielding an ax against them; if you can eat of them, do not cut them down to use in the siege, for the tree of the field is **man’s food**” (emp. added).



Were Dinosaur “Feathers” Colored?

Kyle Butt, M.A.

Dinosaurs did not evolve into birds. That is a historical, biological, and biblical fact. The Law of Biogenesis precludes the possibility, and the book of Genesis explains that God created dinosaurs on day six of the Creation week, one day after birds. The “scientific” evidence concocted to “prove” that dinosaurs evolved into birds has been repeatedly and definitively refuted (see Harrub and Thompson, 2001a and 2001b), yet the idea that dinosaurs are ancestral to birds refuses to die.

In a recent report in *Nature*, Zhang, et al. believe they have “confirmed” that dinosaurs evolved into birds. How did they do this? They stated in the abstract of their research: “Here we report that melanosomes (colour-bearing organelles) are not only preserved in the pennaceous feathers of early birds, but also in an identical manner in integumentary filaments of non-avian dinosaurs” (Zhang, et al., 2010). According to these scientists, certain “feathered dinosaurs” had the same types of melanosomes in their “protofeathers” as birds had in their true feathers. This connection led the team to conclude that this research “confirms that these filaments are probably the evolutionary precursors of true feathers” (2010). Not only that, but the researchers further suggested that they could determine the color of the “non-avian” dinosaurs based on the structure of the melanosomes.

As with most dinosaur research that is published in the evolutionary-laden scientific community, the dinosaur-bird connection based on alleged melanosomes took a small amount of scientific fact, and injected an unhealthy dose of pure speculation to render an unsustainable verdict about dinosaur-bird ancestry. First, if the structures truly are melanosome organelles, they pose an initial problem for the millions-of-years timeframe evolutionists attach to dinosaur fossils. The researchers admitted,

One objection to our interpretation could be that melanosomes are unlikely to survive the fossilization process. However, as argued elsewhere there is extensive evidence that melanosomes are highly resistant to chemical and physical degradation and have higher resistance to decay than keratin substrate feathers and hairs in a variety of physical environments (Zhang, et al., 2010).

Yet, the idea that these organelles could fossilize and last for **120 million years** has no



legitimate scientific evidence to commend it. There is no known preservation process that could account for melanosomes lasting 120 million years.

Second, as forcefully as these researchers suggest that the structures are melanosomes, other equally credentialed scientists suggest they are not. Alan Feduccia, biology professor at the University of North Carolina, said “the melanosomes are not similar to those of other animals and doesn’t disprove the bacteria concept” [the idea that the structures were caused by bacteria and are not melanosomes—KB] (as quoted in Borenstein, 2010).

Third, even if the structures are melanosomes, they prove nothing about dinosaurs having feathers. Melanosomes are not unique to bird feathers. They are organelles that are found in feathers, fur, and skin. The purported “protofeathers” of the “non-avian” dinosaur under discussion do not look anything like feathers. Mike Benton, one of the joint authors of the research, said that the “feathers” of the dinosaur under discussion are “early in their evolutionary development, resemble tiny bristles, less than one fifth of an inch tall” (as quoted in Borenstein, 2010).

In reality, then, we have tiny structures in dinosaur fossils that might be melanosomes, but very well might not. If they are melanosomes, how they were preserved during fossilization for 120 millions years is baffling—unbelievable. [NOTE: We do not accept the millions-of-years timeframe, but only refer to it as a serious problem for the research under discussion.] But even if they are, melanosomes are common to reptiles, birds, and mammals. Thus, their appearance in tiny bristle-like structures does not connect them to birds any more than it does to

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reptiles. This is especially true in light of the fact that the tiny bristles are dubbed “feathers,” not because of anatomical similarities to feathers, but only because of an assumed relationship between dinosaurs and birds that does not even exist.

Not a single, legitimate scientific discovery to date militates against the straightforward reading of Genesis: that God spoke the Universe into existence in six literal, 24 hour days only a few thousand years ago, creating the various different kinds of animals on days five and six. Any attempt to inject false evolutionary timeframes and biologically impossible ancestral relationships into His creation are doomed to failure.

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IN THE NEWS

According to a litany of recent news reports, “the mystery has been solved.” The riddle has been unraveled. A “dream team” of scientists now knows the answer. After much debate over the last several decades, the matter of the great dinosaur demise reportedly has been confirmed, reaffirmed, and settled. At least, that is what the main stream, pro-atheistic, evolutionary media has reported.

On what did a group of evolutionary scientists come to an agreement? The volcano theory? The hay fever theory? The poisonous plant theory? None of these. Forty-one researchers from across the globe believe that everyone can now rest assured that, as many evolutionists had previously thought, dinosaurs became extinct as a result of an asteroid that hit Mexico 65 million years ago (Watson, 2010). According to Kirk Johnson of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, “We assessed the whole picture.... The answer is quite simple.... The Chicxulub crater really is the culprit” (as quoted in Watson). Due to the impact of this seven-mile-wide asteroid and its subsequent effects, including earthquakes, tsunamis, and darkness (as a result of dust and debris), all of the dinosaurs died out.

As with the General Theory of Evolution, these scientists would like us to think that the debate is over. But the debate is far from over, as even some evolutionary scientists are unconvinced by the asteroid theory. For example, Princeton University professor

Gerta Keller still believes that the crater at Chicxulub was formed **long before** dinosaurs became extinct. What’s more, as many creationists have been asking ever since this theory was first proposed (see Lyons and Butt, 2008, p. 210), evolutionist Norman MacLeod of the Museum of Natural History in London, “wonders why, if the asteroid strike was such a doomsday event, some classes of species survived and even thrived” (Watson, 2010).

The truth is, no one knows for sure why the last of the dinosaurs died out. The Noahic Flood certainly would have destroyed countless thousands (or millions) of dinosaurs around the world. Those that survived the Flood (on Noah’s ark) eventually became extinct for unknown reasons. Creationists have proposed logical reasons why they **may** have died out (see Lyons and Butt, pp. 220-223), but no one can be absolutely certain.

There is one thing that we can know for sure: dinosaur extinction in no way disproves Creation.

Eric Lyons

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Notice that trees that bore fruit were to be left alone in the making of siege equipment. However, what was the rationale for this? They were to be spared due to their role in sustaining **human** life. Plants, animals, and the Earth are only important insofar as their value to humanity. They are **instrumentally** good—not **intrinsically** good (Warren, 1972, pp. 38ff.).

Many in the animal rights, environmental, and conservation movements simply do not have their priorities straight on what should be the appropriate use of time and money. To pump millions of dollars into saving the animals or the environment rather than souls is to miss **the point** of our existence. When people sacrifice more of their time and money to try to save the world and the creatures of the world rather than to help the cause of Christ in the world—spreading the Word and serving humanity—then those things have become their **idol**. Regarding unrighteous men, Paul wrote

because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their

hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and **served the creature** rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen (Romans 1:21-25, emp. added).

The rationale of the extremist elements of the conservation, animal rights, and environmental movements is based on a lack of faith in God as the Protector and Sustainer of life—Who is “upholding all things by the word of His power” (Hebrews 1:2-3) and in Whom all things hold together (Colossians 1:17). It is based on faith in the Earth as our savior, serving Mother Nature, instead of Father God. This worldly, faithless rationale says, “We cannot count on God! **We** need to save the world.” It is based on panic and anxiety, rather than on the peace that we can have through faith in God to care for us (Philippians 4:6-7). It is based on human arrogance, confidently asserting that we have the knowledge to save the world when, even if such were possible, we could hardly have the power to do so. Perhaps God in His infinite knowledge **desires** that some species cease to exist at certain points in history. Who are we to claim we could know such things?

The extremist rationale is carnally minded. We should not treasure the Earth or its contents by dwelling on them or prioritizing them above other more important matters (Matthew 6:19). We should, rather, “lay up for [ourselves]

treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:20-21). The infallible principle of entropy treks onward. The Second Law of Thermodynamics says that it will win every battle and implies that it will ultimately win the war, regardless of what we as humans do to fight it. Simply put, the “earth will pass away” (Luke 21:33). So, we should set our minds “on things above, not on things on the earth” (Colossians 3:2).

The Lord told us how this Earth will come to an end. Ironically, it **will** be a form of global warming. However, it will not be man-made global warming:

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with **fervent heat**; both the earth and the works that are in it will be **burned up**. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, **being on fire**, and the elements will melt with **fervent heat**? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless (2 Peter 3:10-14, emp. added).

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SPEAKING SCHEDULES

Kyle Butt

May 21-23 Swartz Creek, MI (810) 635-4544

Eric Lyons

April 6 Mobile, AL (251) 661-1613

April 13 Pike Road, AL (334) 284-2946

Dave Miller

April 9-11 Sparta, TN (931) 836-6790

April 16-18 Dickson, TN (615) 482-5869

April 23-25 Clinton, MO (660) 885-5824



Big Bang Collides with Scientific Evidence

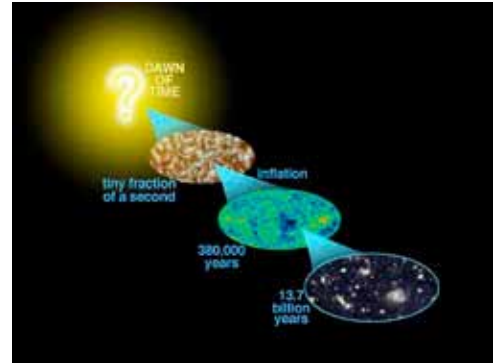
Kyle Butt, M.A.

Popular media outlets delight in talking about the Big Bang as if it is a scientifically proven event that can be documented and studied. In fact, it is discussed in such matter-of-fact terms that few who read the “latest news” about the Big Bang would ever realize that not only has science never verified that it happened, but legitimate science has shown that it **could not** have happened (see Lyons, 2007; Thompson, et al., 2003).

A recent article posted on *Yahoo!* provides an excellent example of the kind of scientific misrepresentation that runs rampant in the popular media. In the article, the author Maggie Fox bases the entire thrust of the report on the assumption that the Big Bang occurred, with no scientific evidence to validate that assumption. Then she writes as if scientists know exactly what happened during the Big Bang, an event that only happened in the imaginations of the scientists. For instance, Fox noted that scientists have “created the hottest temperature ever in the lab—4 trillion degrees Celsius—hot enough to break matter down into the kind of soup **that existed microseconds after the birth of the universe**” (2010, emp. added).

The scientific fact here is simply that matter was heated to four trillion degrees Celsius, assuming we are able to measure heat that high. The erroneous interpretation of that fact is that this heated material can tell us something about what happened “microseconds after the birth of the Universe.” Modern science cannot tell us how the Universe came into existence, unless it **assumes** the Big Bang took place (even though said explosion is a scientific impossibility). It is ironic that for many years, Bishop Ussher’s biblical chronology was ridiculed because he stated that the world started precisely on Sunday, October 23rd, 4004 B.C. (“Bishop Ussher...,” n.d.), and yet Big Bang proponents insist that they know exactly what happened **microseconds** after the birth of the Universe. [NOTE: Ussher’s chronology is used only to show the inconsistency of Big Bang advocates, not because it is believed that his chronology is correct.]

This latest “Big Bang” research stems from experiments done by using the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC) in New York to force gold ions together. What was the multimillion-dollar RHIC designed to do? According to



Artist’s concept of crucial periods in the development of the Universe according to Big Bang inflationary cosmology

Steven Vigdor of the U.S. Department of Energy’s Brookhaven National Laboratory, the collider was built “to create matter at temperatures first encountered in the early universe” (as quoted in Fox, 2010). Notice again the backwards nature of this research. The collider was not designed to manifest evidence that the Big Bang occurred, but instead was designed based on the false assumption that it did, and all the “evidence” is then interpreted in a Big Bang framework.

This bias in favor of the Big Bang is clearly evident throughout Fox’s article (and most modern cosmological research). In fact, Fox matter-of-factly wrote: “**Something happened** in the milliseconds after the Big Bang to create an imbalance in favor of matter over anti-matter. **If there had not been this disparity**, matter and anti-matter would have simply reacted to create a universe of pure energy” (2010, emp. added). Fox is referring to the fact that any time lab scientists have been able to change energy into matter, that matter always appears paired with its anti-matter particle. As Williams and Hartnett explain:

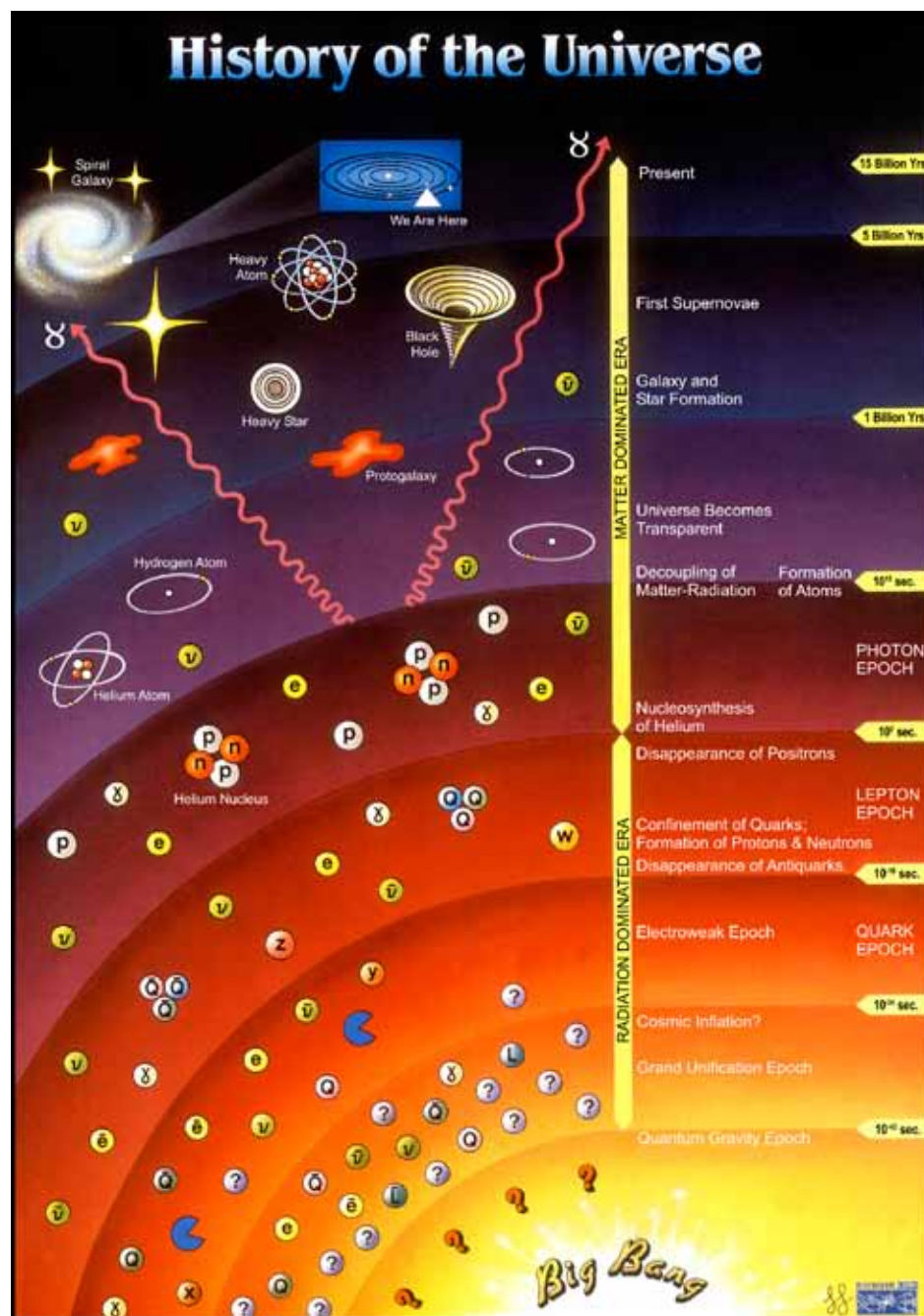
Just as energy can produce matter by this quantum pair production method, so when the matter and antimatter particles come together again they annihilate one another and revert back to energy. This has profound and unwelcome implications for big-bang theory, be-



cause our universe is made of ordinary matter, not equal amounts of matter and antimatter.... Since our universe consists only of matter (as far as we can tell—though there are probably small amounts of matter/antimatter pairs associated with localized high-energy events), it is a reasonable conclusion that our universe could not have been produced by quantum pair production. **This is one of those situations where the evidence refutes the paradigm but supporters of the paradigm see it only as an unsolved problem** (2005, p. 126, emp. added).

When Fox says “something happened,” and “if there had not been this disparity,” what she means is that the Big Bang theory is not a scientific possibility without some unknown force or situation that would favor matter over antimatter. And since she and her fellow Big Bang enthusiasts begin by assuming that the Big Bang actually happened, the scientific evidence that precludes it as a possibility is brushed aside, and a mysterious “something” is conjured out of the cosmological magic hat to provide the Big Bang with supernatural powers that can circumvent all known natural laws.

With the creation of more and more particle colliders around the world, rest assured that Fox’s article will not be the last praising the Big Bang as the point of origin of our Universe. It is equally true that, due to the false assumption that the Big Bang actually occurred, those articles will be plagued with similar scientific misrepresentations, overstatements, and misinterpretations of data. What is really colliding in much of this type of research is not sub-atomic particles, but prejudiced Big Bang bias with honest scientific inquiry. The light generated from such collisions is enough to illuminate the words of Genesis 1:1, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth,” if the modern scientific community would simply open its eyes to the truth.



Graphic representation of the alleged evolutionary origin of the Universe, from the Big Bang to the present, including the initial expansion phase, the production of matter, and galaxy formation. Courtesy of Center for European Nuclear Research (CERN), Geneva, Switzerland

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

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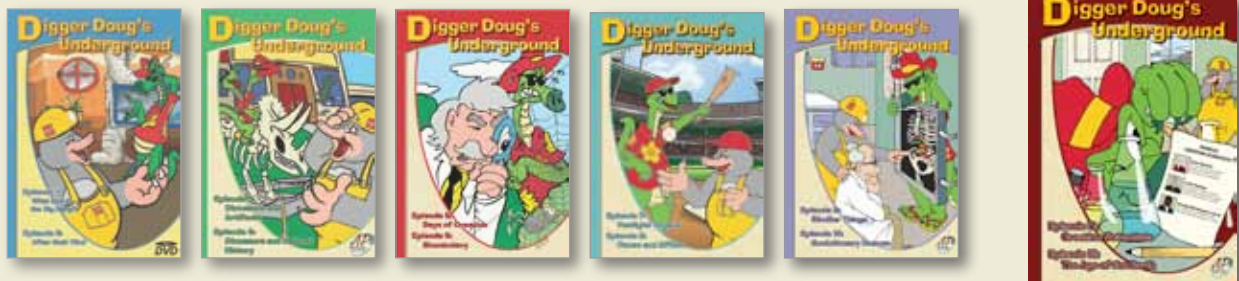
MORE DIGGER DOUG EPISODES

Producing a children's television program is a monumental undertaking. Yet A.P. continues to direct some of its energies to providing young people with media that will insulate their souls against the harsh, ungodly forces of Satan that threaten their spiritual safety. Consequently, we are pleased to release the 6th volume of episodes of our children's program *Digger Doug's Underground*. Like its predecessors, Volume 6 is packaged in an attractive and colorful DVD box and contains two episodes—Episode 11 titled “Creation Scientists” and Episode 12 titled “The Age of the Earth.”

In addition to airing regularly on the Gospel Broadcasting Network (www.gbntv.org), we continue to transfer episodes to DVD. The previous five volumes (10 episodes), already on the market, contain some outstanding information under the follow episode titles: “What About the Big Bang?,” “After Their Kind,” “Dinosaurs and Artifacts,” “Dinosaurs and Natural History,” “Days of Creation,” “Biomimicry,” “Vestigial Organs,” “Cause and Effect,” “Similar Things,” and “Evolutionary Hoaxes.”

In addition to providing children with a masterful blending of scientific and biblical information, the episodes include original songs written specifically for the program. If you are a parent or grandparent, I know you will be delighted with these episodes if you will take the time to preview them.

Dave Miller



See the Center Spread
for More Details

